



C.A Dated On 06-09-2018

General Studies- 1

Rural Circuit In Kerala

Minister of State for Tourism (I/C) Shri K.J. Alphons today announced that the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the project "Development of Rural Circuit: Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project' in Kerala under Swadesh Darshan Scheme for Rs. 80.37 Crores.

About the Project:

- The project focuses on development of water based thematic cruise experiences in and around Valapattanam and Kuppam Rivers of Kannur District.
- The three thematic cruises developed under the project are as follows:
 - a) Malabari Cuisine and Culinary Cruise in Valapattanam River (Muthappan Cruise) - Cruise starts from Valapattanam to Munambu Kadavu in Valapattanam River with an effective Cruise Length of 40 km.
 - b) yyam Cruise in Valapattanam River - Cruise starts from Valapattanam to Pazhayangadi in Valapattanam River with an effective length of 16 km.
 - c) Mangrove Cruise in Kuppam River - Cruise starts from Pazhayangadi to Kuppam in Kuppam River with an effective Cruise length of 16 km.
- Under the project the Ministry has sanctioned funds for development of basic infrastructure facilities like Passenger Terminals, Boat Terminals, Jetties, Boat Race Gallery, Restaurants, Food Courts etc.
- The cruises under the project will be operated under the PPP mode.

Waterways have been an important mode of transport in Kerala from the time immemorial with its 44 Rivers and 7 Backwater regions. The total length of the navigation route in the Kerala is 1900 km. This is tune with the water based tourism which is getting prominence all over the world.



C.A Dated On 06-09-2018

General Studies- 2

Decriminalisation of Section 377

The [Supreme Court](#) on Thursday decriminalised homosexuality with a prayer to the LGBTQ (Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer) community to forgive history for their “brutal” suppression.

Details of Judgement:

- A five-judge Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra unanimously held that criminalisation of private consensual sexual conduct between adults of the same sex under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code is clearly unconstitutional.
- The court, however, held that Section 377 will apply to “unnatural” sexual acts like bestiality.
- Sexual acts without consent continues to be a crime under the Section.
- In four concurring opinions, the Bench declared the 156-year-old “tyranny” of Section 377 as “irrational, indefensible and manifestly arbitrary”.
- Justice D.Y. Chandrachud called Section 377 “Macaulay’s legacy”, which continued for 68 years despite a liberal Constitution because of the manifest lethargy of lawmakers.
- He said the Section shackled the human instinct to love. It had been a reason for tragedy and anguish. “It is difficult to right a wrong by history. But we can set the course for the future,” he wrote in his separate opinion.
- Section 377 discriminates against a minority solely for their sexual orientation.
- It violates the right of the LGBTIQ community to “equal citizenship and equal protection of laws”.
- The court held that bodily autonomy is individualistic. Choice of partner is part of the fundamental right to privacy.

Background:

- The Bench set aside the 2013 judgment of the court in the Suresh Koushal case.
- Legal experts said this was a much-needed self-correction of a past judicial wrong committed on the LGBTQ community.



C.A Dated On 06-09-2018

- The verdict would become the foundation for members of the community to seek individual rights like.
- The 2013 judgment upheld Section 377 and set aside the reprieve won by the LGBTQ community through the Delhi High Court verdict of 2009, which decriminalised homosexuality. It had cast the community back into the shadows as “unconvicted felons”.

Justice Nariman embraced the **"Yogyakarta" Principles**, which recognise freedom of sexual orientation and gender identity as part of human rights, saying they “animate” the right to equality and equal protection by laws.

COMCASA

Why in News?

A long-negotiated defence pact under which critical and encrypted defence technologies will be provided to the Indian military by the US was inked here on Thursday after the two countries held their first 2+2 dialogue during which they also discussed key issues, including cross-border terrorism, India’s NSG bid and the contentious H1B visa issue.

What is COMCASA?

- COMCASA stands for Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement and is one of the four foundational agreements that the U.S. signs with allies and close partners to facilitate interoperability between militaries and sale of high end technology.
- COMCASA is an India-specific version of the Communication and Information on Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA). It comes into force immediately, and is valid for a period 10 years.

Benefits of signing COMCASA:

- COMCASA allows India to procure transfer specialised equipment for encrypted communications for US origin military platforms like the C-17, C-130 and P-8Is. Currently, these platforms use commercially available communication systems.



C.A Dated On 06-09-2018

- it would facilitate access to advanced defence systems and enable India to optimally utilize its existing U.S.-origin platforms.
- This will also enable greater communications interoperability between the militaries of India and the US.
- Data acquired through such systems cannot be disclosed or transferred to any person or entity without India's consent.
- Both countries will implement this agreement in a manner that is consistent with the national security interests of the other.

India had signed the General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) in 2002 and the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016.

The last one remaining is the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA).

General Studies-3

National Mission on Government eMarketplace (GeM)

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, today launched the National Mission on Government eMarketplace (GeM) for increasing awareness and accelerating the use of (GeM).

Speaking on this occasion the Minister said that in the next 3 years transactions on GeM will reach USD 100 billion.

About the Mission:

- The National Mission will cover all central government departments, states and public sector undertakings in a mission mode.
- It is aimed at creating awareness about GeM, train the buyers and sellers, get them registered in GeM and increase the procurement through GeM.
- This aim of this mission is to promote inclusiveness by empowering various categories of sellers and service providers such as MSMEs, start-ups, domestic manufacturers, women entrepreneurs, and Self-Help Groups.
- It will also Highlight and communicate the value addition via transparency and efficiency in public procurement, including corruption-free governance



C.A Dated On 06-09-2018

in sync with the Central Government's objective of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance.

- The mission also aims to give a boost to cashless, contactless, paperless transactions in line with Digital India objectives.
- It will improve overall efficiency and driving significant savings in Government procurement spends and it will maximize easy availability of all types of products and services procured by Government buyers via registration drives for existing vendors, further expanding the base of online products and services.

About GeM:

- Government eMarketplace is the national public procurement portal offering an online, end-to-end, solution for procurement of common use goods and services by government departments.
- GeM provides an open, inclusive, transparent and efficient online marketplace, which provides huge savings to government.
- It is mandatory for central government departments to procure through GeM.
- 25 states and Union Territories have signed MoU with GeM to adopt it as the mandatory mode of procurement for their departments so far.



C.A Dated On 06-09-2018

Key Features



Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats beyond 12th Plan

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Umbrella Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) beyond the 12th Plan period from 2017-18 to 2019-20.

About the Scheme:

- The Scheme consists of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger (CSS-PT), Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-DWH) and Project Elephant (CSS-PE).
- A total of 18 tiger range States, distributed in five landscapes of the country would be benefitted under the Project Tiger scheme.
- Similarly, for other two schemes, the coverage is entire country in case of Development of Wildlife Habitats (DWH) and 23 elephant range States for Project Elephant.



C.A Dated On 06-09-2018

- It would foster wildlife conservation in general with specific inputs for tiger in Project Tiger area and elephant in Project Elephant area.

Benefits of Scheme:

- Besides immense environmental benefits and effective implementation of tiger conservation inputs the schemes would result in overall strengthening/ consolidation of tiger, elephant and wildlife conservation in the country.
- The schemes would address the human wildlife conflict effectively.

Benefits to People:

- These schemes would generate employment opportunities resulting in economic upliftment of people in and around tiger reserves/ Protected Areas besides leading to reduction in natural resource dependency with substitution by clean energy use.
- It will generate direct employment of about 30 lakh mandays annually which shall include many local tribes besides non-tribal local workforce.
- Local populace would get opportunities to serve as guides, driver, hospitality personnel and in other ancillary jobs.
- These schemes would foster imparting various skills towards making people self-dependent through various eco-development projects, thereby enabling them to go for self-employment.

The implementation of the schemes would be done through the respective States in designated Tiger Reserves, Protected Areas and Elephant Reserve